

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Jordan vows 'harsh' war vs. militants

*The Associated Press*

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordanian warplanes bombed Islamic State targets on Thursday, state TV said, after the country's king vowed to wage a "harsh" war against the militants who control large areas of neighboring Syria and Iraq.

The military confirmed the airstrikes, but did not provide details. Jordan TV, quoting military officials, reported that the strikes targeted Islamic State positions, but did not say in which country.

Jordan is part of a U.S.-led military coalition that has bombed Islamic State targets in both countries since last fall, but

until now Jordanian warplanes are known to have carried out raids only in Syria.

King Abdullah II pledged to step up the fight against the Islamic State group after the militants burned a captive Jordanian pilot in a cage and released a video of the killing earlier this week. The images have sent waves of anger across the region.

On Thursday, warplanes roared overhead as the king paid a condolence visit to the family of the pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, in his village in southern Jordan. The king pointed upward, toward the roar of the planes, as he sat next to the slain pilot's father, Safi

al-Kaseasbeh.

Defense officials said the U.S. has moved search-and-rescue aircraft closer to the battlefields in recent days in Syria and Iraq. The move is intended to bolster the confidence of American and allied pilots that they won't suffer the fate of the downed Jordanian fighter.

Three defense officials said Thursday that U.S. search-and-rescue aircraft were moved into northern Iraq in recent days to put them in better position to respond to the downing of a U.S. or allied aircraft in Syria or Iraq. The nearest rescue crews had been based in Kuwait, one official said.

The officials requested ano-

nymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss a move that has not been announced.

Leading members of Congress have called for increased U.S. military assistance to the kingdom. Currently, the United States is providing Jordan with \$1 billion annually in economic and military assistance.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Abdullah — who met with lawmakers and President Barack Obama on Tuesday — must be given "all of the military equipment" he needs to combat the group. He said Abdullah did not ask for ground troops.

## NBC anchor apologizes for false Iraq story

BY TRAVIS TRITTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Apologies by "NBC Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams Wednesday for his false claim of being on a helicopter forced down by Iraqi rocket fire in 2003 left out key details and made misleading claims about his proximity to the incident, according to soldiers who were there at the time.

Williams admitted on air that he was not on the Chinook that was struck by enemy fire, saying he was "instead on a following aircraft" and writing a Facebook apology to soldiers saying, "I was indeed on the Chinook behind the bird that took the RPG." But Army flight crews told Stars and Stripes the NBC anchor was actually flying with a different helicopter company altogether — in a different direction — and was linked to the attacked unit by radio only.

The wording appeared to be another example of the anchor muddling the facts or providing misleading details of the incident that he covered in the opening days of the Iraq invasion. Since the 2003 incident, he has written that he "came under fire" and implied that his Chinook was forced down due to an attack, while soldiers said it was landed amid deteriorating weather conditions during a sandstorm.

"I think it is misleading" for Williams to say his aircraft was following behind the Chinook hit by two rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire, said David Luke, a retired soldier from Texas who was a flight engineer with a company of the helicopters under the 159th Aviation Regiment, which was known as Hercules and based out of Savannah, Ga.

The company carrying NBC and the company that was attacked typically flew sorties one

hour apart to supply forward positions as the U.S. pushed toward Baghdad, though they happened to pass in the air before the incident, he said.

Luke said his formation of three Chinooks was carrying Williams and his NBC crew back toward Kuwait when they spotted a white Iraqi pickup truck, which stopped to watch the aircraft. They flew past quickly and continued on.

Soon after, Luke's formation passed another company of Chinooks based out of Germany known as Big Windy heading in the opposite direction toward Baghdad, he said.

Luke's Hercules Chinooks carrying Williams and the NBC crew soon heard over the radio that the Big Windy company they had passed came under fire from the pickup truck, he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Miller, who was a flight engineer on the Chinook carrying NBC,

said the TV news crew placed a microphone in one of the helicopter's headsets and later broadcast clips of the radio reports from the Chinook company that was attacked.

Luke's unit then ran into an approaching sandstorm that forced them to change course and return north in an attempt to find a safe haven at the forward operating base Rams, a Spartan and hastily organized post to the south of Baghdad, Luke said.

The unit found the rocket-damaged Chinook parked at an airstrip just outside Rams. Crewmembers on that aircraft said Williams came off his helicopter and approached them to ask about the attack.

Williams angered crewmembers last week when he claimed he had been aboard the attacked Chinook.

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# Carter likely to be confirmed next week

BY JON HARPER  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON—The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee is aiming to get President Barack Obama's defense secretary nominee confirmed next week.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told Ashton Carter at the end of his confirmation hearing Wednesday that he wanted to get his nomination voted out of committee quickly and put on the floor for a full Senate vote by "early next week."

"The week after that we're in recess, so we'll try and get it accomplished," McCain said.

Carter's standing on Capitol Hill going into his confirmation vote is much higher than Chuck Hagel's was when he was tapped for the post two years ago. Hagel, the outgoing Pentagon chief, saw his nomination filibustered after a poor confirmation hearing performance. The former Republican senator previously had made controversial remarks about Israel and other issues, which drew fire from lawmakers.

When the final up-or-down vote took place in the Senate, Hagel made it through 58-41. The mostly party-line vote gave him the narrowest margin of approval of any defense secretary in history.

Carter is a technocrat and policy wonk without any political baggage. He has a long history at the Pentagon. From October 2011 to December 2013, he served as deputy secretary of defense. Prior to being the Pentagon's No. 2 official, Carter served as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, and oversaw the buying of the military's newest weapon systems and technologies.

Carter has been widely praised by lawmakers from both parties, and his nomination is not expected to face any serious opposition.

During the hearing, Republicans and Democrats on the committee expressed confidence that Carter would be confirmed.

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# Navy bribery figure may be helping investigators

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The Navy's sex-for-secrets corruption scandal may be about to get worse: Investigators' prized catch has started to squawk.

Leonard Glenn Francis, the Malaysian defense contractor who made a fortune by supplying Navy ships throughout Asia, has begun cooperating with federal investigators and pointing the finger at new suspects, court records indicate.

According to an affidavit filed this week by federal investigators, a confidential witness who matches Francis' description detailed how a former senior U.S. contracting

official accepted several hundred thousand dollars in bribes in exchange for driving Navy business to Francis' company.

The witness was not identified by name but was described in the affidavit as a person who has already pleaded guilty in the corruption investigation and who was separately convicted of firearms charges in a foreign country about 30 years ago.

Francis pleaded guilty Jan. 15 in San Diego. He admitted to bribing "scores" of Navy officials with cash, luxury travel and prostitutes for classified or inside information that benefited his firm, Glenn Defense Marine Asia.

# NATO boosts reaction force as threats loom

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC  
*Stars and Stripes*

NATO defense ministers decided Thursday to significantly boost the size of the alliance's rapid-reaction force to deal with growing threats such as the war in Ukraine and Islamic radicalism along its southern flank.

"In Ukraine, violence is getting worse and the crisis is deepening. Russia continues to disregard international rules and to support the separatists," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said. "In North Africa and the Middle East, violent extremism is spreading, (fueling) terrorism in our own countries."

Outgoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel warned that those divergent concerns could cause a split in the alliance.

"I worry about the potential for division between our northern and southern allies," he said. He added that this was a time for unity and that the alliance would have to address all challenges at the same time.

Stoltenberg said the alliance's 28 ministers had agreed to increase the NATO Reaction Force to about 30,000 troops — more than double its originally planned strength of 13,000.

Stoltenberg said ministers

also had agreed on the composition of a brigade-strength Spearhead Force, whose lead elements would be ready to move into trouble spots within 48 hours of being activated. France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Britain had offered to provide the main elements of that force.

"This is a strong signal of NATO solidarity," Stoltenberg said at the end of the one-day meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels. "And it shows that European allies are fully playing their part, taking the lead in protecting Europe."

The allies decided to immediately establish six multinational command-and-control centers in eastern Europe. Those will be located in Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. The centers will comprise up to 50 staff officers, half of them from the home nations, officials said.

"If a crisis arises, they will ensure that national and NATO forces from across the Alliance are able to act as one from the start. They will make rapid deployment easier," Stoltenberg said. "This is the biggest reinforcement of collective defense since the Cold War."

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## France, Germany push east Ukraine peace plan

KIEV, Ukraine — In a new push for peace, the leaders of France and Germany headed Thursday to Kiev and Moscow with a proposal to end the fighting in eastern Ukraine. The surprise move appeared aimed at heading off U.S. considerations of giving Ukraine lethal weapons, something Europeans fear could spark even wider hostilities.

The flurry of high-level diplomacy comes as resurgent fighting in eastern Ukraine is threatening Europe's overall

security.

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin's aide welcomed the new European initiative and said the Kremlin was ready for a constructive discussion. NATO defense ministers in Brussels, however, were ready to boost the military alliance's forces in response to the fighting in Ukraine and Russia's increased military forcefulness.

Calling it a "very critical moment in our history," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko warmly welcomed Secretary of State John Kerry to Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

From The Associated Press

# Woods facing longest odds of storied career

*The Associated Press*

SAN DIEGO — No one can recall these kinds of odds for Tiger Woods at any tournament, certainly not one at Torrey Pines. He is listed at 50-to-1, which prompted a question that was even more shocking than the odds.

Was that to win? Or to make the cut?

Perhaps even more telling was an observation from Padraig Harrington.

"Did you ever think you would hear a professional golfer genuinely and sincerely say, 'I hope Tiger Woods plays better,'" Harrington said over the weekend.

No one ever imagined him playing worse.

Woods didn't just miss the cut in the Phoenix Open last week. He missed it by 12 shots. More than posting an 82 — the highest score of his professional career — was how lost he looked, especially around the greens.

The biggest break for Woods during his second round at the TPC Scottsdale was on the 17th hole, when Woods and Jordan

Spieth drove it just short of the green. The hole was back and to the right, requiring a pitch that had to be struck close to perfect.

Woods had no chance. His golf ball was partially sunken in a divot, a shot so impossible that he stood over it for nearly a minute with his hands on his hips instead of around a club, probably because he had no idea what club could get him out of this trouble. He opted for a 4-iron, which didn't have enough pace and fell off the side of the green.

Why was that a break?

Because if he had a clean lie, Spieth would have exposed him even more. Spieth has one of the best short games on tour.

Woods does not.

And the rest of his game is not much better. The talk at Isleworth two months ago, when Woods returned from a four-month break to let his back heal fully from surgery and to regain strength, was that there was more freedom in his swing. In Phoenix, he was back to rehearsing his shot, over and over, before every swing.

Is this a low point? Woods can only hope so, but the rehearsals would indicate he has a lot of work and a long road ahead of him.

For so many years, Woods was associated with words like mystique, intimidation and ruthlessness.

Now he evokes sympathy.

No player wants to see Woods like this, and the odds would be greater than 50-to-1 they'll ever get the old Woods back.

"I want to see him back on top of his game again," Pat Perez said. "He is golf. I don't care where he is. If he finishes last or first or whatever, he is the game of golf. And until he leaves, he will be that guy. Everybody is always going to question him and go after him. I don't watch the Golf Channel, but I'm sure they have all the answers for him. I hope he turns it around."

The two nastiest words in golf are "choke" and "yips," and the latter is coming up quite frequently in any conversation about Woods. How else to explain a guy who hits one chip 3 feet and the next one 30 yards?

Justin Thomas, a 21-year-old rookie, grew up watching and idolizing Woods. Just like any other kid, he dreamed about winning a major, and it was usually going head-to-head with Woods on the back nine Sunday.

Thomas has played in three tournaments with Woods, and Woods has missed the cut in two of them. The other was at Torrey Pines, where Woods missed the 54-hole cut. When he shot his 82 last Friday, Thomas said it was "disheartening to see."

To see how lost he looked in Phoenix, and realizing that he is 39 with five surgeries behind him, make clear that it will take an extraordinary effort for Woods to get back to the top of his game.

Then again, he was nothing short of extraordinary leading up to this point.

It's easy to forget he won five times and was PGA Tour player of the year just two years ago. That's what Thomas is banking on.

"It (stinks)," he said of how Woods is playing. "But he'll get it back. He wasn't the best player by coincidence."

## Familiar names atop college football recruiting rankings

*The Associated Press*

On a day when the new faces of college football made their school choices official, some familiar names finished atop the team recruiting standings.

But which school fared the best? It depends on which recruiting service you follow. Southern California topped the Rivals and Scout team recruiting rankings, while Alabama led the ESPN and 247Sports standings. USC's rise is noteworthy because this marked the first year it could sign a full class since coming off probation.

"It's a Pete Carroll type of class," said Mike Farrell, the national recruiting director for Rivals. "Now they've just got to put it together on the field."

It came as no surprise that these two schools led the way, as evidenced by Rivals' annual rankings. Alabama topped the Rivals rankings from 2008-09 and from 2011-14, while Southern California finished first from 2004-06 and in 2010.

USC wasn't the only Los Angeles-area school with reason to celebrate. UCLA soared up the team standings Wednesday by getting late commitments from some top prospects, including tight end Chris Clark, running back Soso Jamabo, offensive lineman Josh Wariboko, safety Nathan Meadors and wide receiver Cordell Broadus (the son of rapper Snoo Dogg). In the process, UCLA showed its ability to recruit nationally. Clark is from Connecticut, Wariboko from Oklahoma and Jamabo from Texas. "They had some guys that a lot of people predicted might stay closer to home," Farrell said.

In nationally televised announcements

Wednesday morning, defensive end Byron Cowart selected Auburn and linebacker Roquan Smith declared he was going to UCLA. But that didn't stop the drama surrounding the recruitments of these two heralded prospects. Auburn wasn't sure it had Cowart — rated by Rivals as the nation's No. 1 recruit — until his letter of intent arrived nearly seven hours after his announcement. UCLA still hadn't received Smith's paperwork by 6 p.m. Wednesday, which at least raised the possibility the Georgia prospect might be reconsidering.

Buried below most Power 5 programs in the team recruiting standings for the last few weeks, Florida closed with a flourish under new coach Jim McElwain. The Gators' flurry of late commitments was headlined by consensus five-star offensive tackle Martez Ivey and defensive end CeCe Jefferson. Ivey is rated as the nation's No. 2 overall prospect in the 247Sports Composite, which takes into account all the major recruiting services.

### Packers lineman Guion arrested in Florida

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Authorities said Wednesday that Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Letroy Guion had been arrested in Florida on felony charges of drug and firearm possession after a traffic stop turned up three-quarters of a pound of marijuana, a 9mm handgun and a bag containing more than \$190,000 in cash.

Guion, 27, was arrested on Tuesday night during a traffic stop in his hometown of Starke, Fla. Police said that the lineman

"became extremely uncooperative and hostile" during the stop and wound up being handcuffed to protect the officers.

In other NFL news:

■ Seattle Seahawks strong safety Kam Chancellor played in the Super Bowl with a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee, according to the team's website.

In a story on Seahawks.com posted Wednesday, Chancellor said two days before the loss to New England he was told he wasn't going to play. Chancellor collided knees with a teammate in practice the Friday before the game and suffered a deep bone bruise. During the examination, the torn MCL was revealed, Chancellor said in the story.

■ Dallas running back Joseph Randle has been arrested for the second time in less than four months, this time on suspicion of marijuana possession after a domestic violence call to police in his hometown in Kansas.

The 23-year-old Randle was arrested after a small amount of marijuana was found, and he was ordered to appear in court in three weeks on the possession charge. He wasn't taken into custody.

### Rockets' Howard has bone marrow injection

HOUSTON — Rockets star Dwight Howard is out indefinitely after receiving an injection in his right knee.

The team said Wednesday that Howard had a bone marrow aspirate injection and would begin rehabilitation immediately. The team said he will be re-evaluated in approximately four weeks, but did not offer a time for him to return to playing.

## Rahlves takes ski course as forerunner

*The Associated Press*

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — At 41 and almost a decade removed from his last World Cup downhill race, Daron Rahlves wants one last crack at a demanding Birds of Prey course he knows so well.

Don't worry, the former U.S. skier promises to take it easy.

He's out for video, not a victory.

Rahlves will serve as an honorary forerunner before the men's downhill race Saturday, capturing images with cameras mounted on his ski boot and helmet. He said he will leave the real racing to Bode Miller, Kjetil Jansrud and the rest of the world's top speedsters.

But Rahlves reserves the right to change his mind. After all, Rahlves knows the nuances of this course and where to find hidden speed about as well as anyone. He's won twice at Beaver Creek, including in 2003 when he turned in a fast and furious run.

Rahlves was once king of speed on the U.S. team before Miller's rise to prominence. Rahlves competed at three Olympics with the ski team, won 12 World Cup races and captured a world championship super-G title in 2001.

He likes the chances of the 37-year-old Miller, who had back surgery to fix a herniated disk in November.

"Bode knows this hill. He's a winner on this hill," Rahlves said. "He's got nothing to lose. He's got the talent and the skills and if his head is there, which I think it is, I would not be surprised if he comes down with the fastest time here."



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# Coach K sets ACC wins mark

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski tore off his jacket, he slapped the floor, he gestured toward the crowd — anything to spark his emotionally spent Duke players.

And then his lone scholarship senior got rolling and saved the fourth-ranked Blue Devils.

Quinn Cook scored all 17 of his points in the second half, and Duke beat Georgia Tech 72-66 on Wednesday night to give Krzyzewski his Atlantic Coast Conference-record 423rd league victory.

Justise Winslow added 15 points and fellow freshman Jahliil Okafor had 14 for the Blue Devils (19-3, 6-3), who played for the first time since their win over previously unbeaten Virginia.

"That's a huge win, and now you've got to do it again," Krzyzewski said. "I didn't think we were emotionally at the level we needed to be, no matter what we did. Not that our kids weren't ready to play, but we could not get that level of emotion."

In the second half, Duke never trailed but also never led by more than seven points before finding a way to give their Hall of Fame coach a second milestone in 11 days.

Krzyzewski, who earned his 1,000th career victory Jan. 25 at St. John's, surpassed former North Carolina coach Dean Smith as the winningest in ACC play. He improved to 423-169 in his 35th year in

the league.

**No. 7 Villanova 70, Marquette**

**52:** Ryan Arcidiacono scored 18 points, leading the host Wildcats to the victory.

Darrun Hilliard had 12 points and Josh Hart scored 11 in the latest romp for Villanova (20-2, 7-2 Big East). The Wildcats shook off a slow start while sending the Golden Eagles (10-12, 2-8) to their sixth straight loss.

**No. 10 Notre Dame 71,**

**Boston College 63:** Jerian Grant and Steve Vasturia scored 17 points apiece, and the host Fighting Irish held on for the win.

**No. 16 Wichita State 62,**

**Bradley 59:** Fred VanVleet made two free throws with 4.6 seconds left, helping the visiting Shockers to the narrow win.

**No. 17 Maryland 64, Penn**

**State 58:** Dez Wells had 23 points for the host Terrapins, and Jon Graham scored 12 of his career-high 16 after halftime.

**No. 18 VCU 72, George**

**Mason 60:** Melvin Johnson scored 17 points, and the visiting Rams won for the 11th time in their last 12 games.

**No. 19 Baylor 77, Tcu 57:**

Kenny Chery had 13 points, starting the game with a three-pointer and a three-

point play to put the host Bears ahead to stay.

**Purdue 60, No. 20 Ohio**

**State 58:** Rapheal Davis scored 20 points and the host Boilermakers staved off a late rally.

**Providence 74, No. 24**

**Georgetown 71:** Ben Bencil had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and the visiting Friars rallied to get the win.

**Oklahoma State 65, No. 25**

**Texas 63:** Phil Forte made two free throws with 2.1 seconds left in overtime, sending the host Longhorns to their fourth loss in a row.

**Lehigh 103, Army 74:** Miles

Simelton scored a career-high 18 points with three three-pointers and Tim Kempton added 17 as the host Mountain Hawks hit nearly 56 percent from the field and clobbered the Black Knights.

**Boston University 63, Navy**

**59:** Eric Fanning spotted up on the right wing for his only three-point attempt of the game with six seconds left and drained it, then blocked a final shot to finish with 20 points as the host Terriers defeated the Midshipmen.

**Air Force 53, New Mexico**

**49:** Marek Olesinski scored 18 points to lead the host Falcons over the Lobos.

# Syracuse imposes tourney ban

The Associated Press

Syracuse University announced Wednesday that it has instituted a self-imposed postseason ban for the current men's basketball season as part of its case pending before the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

The school initiated the case, which includes academics, when it self-reported potential athletic department violations to the NCAA in 2007. School officials said Wednesday none of the conduct occurred after 2012 and no current student-athlete is involved.

The ban also includes the ACC tournament. After Syracuse's announcement, the conference released an updated bracket for a tournament shortened by one game.

Coach Jim Boeheim says he's disappointed, especially for senior Rakeem Christmas, but supports the decision.

"I believe the university is doing the right thing by acknowledging that past mistakes occurred," Boeheim said in a statement.

In 2012, Syracuse declared former center Fab Melo ineligible for the NCAA tournament days before it started. Melo also missed three Big East games during the season because of an academic issue. Early in the 2012-13 season, former forward James Southerland sat out six games for an academic issue but helped lead the Orange to the Final Four.

In March 2012, school officials said the university had self-reported possible violations of its internal drug policy by former members of the team and that the NCAA was investigating. None of the members of that team were involved.

The school also acknowledged the NCAA had inquired into old allegations that players were allowed to practice and play despite being in violation of the school's drug policy.

"We are fully supportive of Syracuse and its decision to self-impose sanctions by removing themselves from any men's basketball postseason opportunities," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said.

The probe also involves issues with football. Syracuse completed a two-day hearing before the Committee on Infractions in October, and among those who attended were Boeheim and football coach Scott Shafer.

"While this is a tough decision for the university and its students, faculty, staff and fans, it helps to close this particular chapter and allows us to focus on the future," said newly appointed faculty athletics representative Rick Burton.

Plagued by injuries, Syracuse has struggled to a 15-7 mark this season and was a longshot to make the NCAA tournament or NIT. Still, the announcement was difficult for the players to accept.

"We are all tremendously disappointed that we are going to miss out on playing in the postseason based on issues that do not involve us," Christmas, Trevor Cooney and Michael Gbinije said in a joint statement.

While the Orange have only eight scholarship players currently available to play due to injuries, Boeheim has the top recruiting class in his 39 years as head coach inked for next year and big things are expected as he nears 1,000 career victories. If the NCAA agrees a one-year postseason ban is sufficient, the new recruits won't be affected.

# Curry, Warriors rally past Mavs

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry scored a season-high 51 points and made a season-best 10 three-pointers, rallying the Golden State Warriors from an early 22-point deficit to down the Dallas Mavericks 128-114 on Wednesday night.

Curry connected on 10 of 16 shots from beyond the arc and 16 of 26 overall.

Chandler Parsons scored 24 points, and Tyson Chandler had 21 points and 17 rebounds in a disappointing defeat for Dallas, which played without injured point guard Rajon Rondo again.

**Hawks 105, Wizards 96:** Jeff Teague scored 26 points, Al Horford added 21 and host Atlanta rebounded from their first loss in more than a month.

**Thunder 102, Pelicans 91:** Russell Westbrook tied his career high with

45 points and visiting Oklahoma City overcame Kevin Durant's absence to beat New Orleans.

**Timberwolves 102, Heat**

**101:** Kevin Martin scored 30 points and Minnesota overcame another monster game from Hassan Whiteside to beat visiting Miami.

**Bucks 113, Lakers 105**

**(OT):** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a career-high 25 points, Brandon Knight had 24 and host Milwaukee outlasted Los Angeles for its fifth consecutive victory.

**Nets 109, Raptors 93:** Jarrett Jack scored 24 points, Alan Anderson had 22 and visiting Brooklyn handed Toronto its first loss in 10 games against Atlantic Division opponents this season.

**Pacers 114, Pistons 109:**

George Hill had 20 points and six assists

in his return to Indiana's starting lineup, helping the host Pacers beat Detroit.

**Rockets 101, Bulls 90:** James Harden had 27 points in Houston's victory over visiting Chicago.

**Spurs 110, Magic 103:** Tim Duncan had 26 points and 10 rebounds and host San Antonio sent Orlando to its 10th straight loss.

**Grizzlies 100, Jazz 90:** Zach Randolph had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead Memphis past host Utah for the Grizzlies' eighth straight victory.

**Celtics 104, Nuggets 100:**

Benched at the start for showing up late to the shootaround, Jared Sullinger made two free throws with 22.8 seconds left to break a tie in Boston's victory over visiting Denver.

# Fleury, Penguins blank Oilers

The Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Though he wasn't sorely tested for most of the game, Marc-Andre Fleury stepped up when the Pittsburgh Penguins needed him most.

Fleury made 22 saves to get his seventh shutout of the season as Pittsburgh opened a three-game trip to western Canada with a 2-0 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday night.

Evgeni Malkin and David Perron scored for the Penguins, who improved to 12-6-5 on the road this season.

Viktor Fasth had 24 saves in the Oilers' second loss in three games.

After a scoreless first period in which

there were few chances, Malkin got Pittsburgh on the scoreboard 24 seconds into the second. He picked up a loose puck during a scramble in front of the Oilers' net and slipped in his 20th goal of the season.

The Penguins doubled the lead with 0.4 seconds to go in the period as the rebound of Kris Letang's shot hit Perron on the way toward the net and caromed in. It was Perron's seventh goal in 13 games since his trade from Edmonton to Pittsburgh.

**Rangers 3, Bruins 2:** Cam

Talbot made 18 saves in place of the injured Henrik Lundqvist, Rick Nash had a goal and an assist, and Derek Stepan

snapped a second-period tie to lift the New York Rangers to their third straight win.

Milan Lucic and Patrice Bergeron had goals in the first for Boston, which was 8-1-1 in its previous 10. Tuukka Rask stopped 22 shots.

**Flames 3, Sharks 1:** Kris Russell scored his first goal of the season, Jonas Hiller stopped 28 shots, and Calgary beat visiting San Jose.

Jiri Hudler and Mason Raymond also scored.

John Scott scored for San Jose, which lost in regulation for the first time in its last five games (3-1-1).